



# Fairfax County Community Chaplain Corps Requirements

Upon request, the Fairfax County Community Chaplain (FCCC) Corps will provide spiritual care and psychological first aid to community members impacted by the effects of a disaster or emergency. The FCCC Corps chaplains work as a part of an emergency or disaster team under the directions of the locally designated incident management system and in cooperation with county police and fire and rescue chaplains and mental health personnel. FCCC Corps chaplains may be deployed to Family Assistance Centers (FACs), Emergency Shelters, Site Information Centers (SIC), and other locations set up in a crisis or emergency as directed. FCCC Corps chaplains may accompany Fairfax County police officers on death notifications. Chaplains may also be deployed to homes or locations in the county to provide chaplain services to family and friends at scenes when a sudden death or suicide occurs.

FCCC Corps chaplains will:

- Serve as an on-call chaplain for four (4) weeks annually and may serve up to 12 hours per day.
- Be prepared to respond to major emergencies or disasters throughout the year beyond the FCCC Corps chaplain's on-call weeks.
- Be responsible for finding a replacement FCCC Corps chaplain and notifying on-call chaplain partner and the Community Interfaith Coordination office, in the event he/she will not be available for assigned on-call week.
- Only deploy to emergency sites when instructed.
- Adhere to the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Provide a pastoral presence.
- Provide a sense of spiritual safety and security as well as a sense of healing and hope.
- Provide a helping hand on the scene with basic needs such as food and water.
- Assist people in connecting with next step resources.
- Perform duties as assigned by Incident Commander or his/her designee.

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- Complete a Deployment Log report prior to departing incident work site. Complete an electronic Deployment Log report prior to site departure or as soon as there is access to a computer with internet connections.
- Complete an “After Action” report within 5 business days following a deployment.
- Not proselytize or conduct religion-specific prayer ceremonies in public, but may conduct private religion-specific prayer ceremonies if requested by a resident.

To become a certified FCCC Corps chaplain, FCCC Corps candidates must:

- a. Be ordained, invested or certified by a legitimate certifying body, and provide evidence of such.
- b. Complete a FCCC Corps application.
- c. Successfully complete a Fairfax County Government Appointee Background
- d. Investigation which will include fingerprinting.
- e. Successfully complete a Commonwealth of Virginia Child Protective Services Background Investigation.
- f. Provide a letter of recommendation from two leaders of the candidate’s religious community or governing body attesting to the candidate’s pastoral care abilities.
- g. Participate in FCCC Corps Steering Committee and support staff interview(s).
- h. Successfully complete the following courses:
  - i. FCCC Corps Orientation
  - ii. Disaster Chaplaincy
  - iii. Psychological First Aid
  - iv. National Incident Management System 100
  - v. Chaplain Operations and Response Coordination
- i. Agree to follow the FCCC Corps “Ethics, Principles and Practices”.

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- j. Attend FCCC Corps meetings and trainings following certification. (Approximately two annually.)
- k. Participate in FCCC Corps affiliated training exercises which occur during a chaplain's on-call week.
- l. Receive, read, and respond to general FCCC Corps communications as requested.
- m. Receive and respond to FCCC Corps or Fairfax County Public Safety emergency or deployment communications immediately, upon receipt.
- n. Participate in after action feedback opportunities.
- o. Provide a cell telephone number contact that can receive both voice and text messages for FCCC Corps emergency alerts and deployments, as text messages are the primary method of communication in emergencies.